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The Time of My Departure is at Hand

Wyatt Sawyer

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THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE IS AT HAND

CDS

II Timothy 4:1-8

INT:

Text is a charge from Paul to Timothy. Verses 1-5.
Exhortation good from any Christian to another.
Paul was closing his earthly life. Report given. V. 6.
Study: Two parts. Paul's good advice. My final report.

I. "I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT".

- A. Some visualize Christian life as soothing dream, but Paul saw it as a fight to the finish. I T. 6:12.
1. He fought wild beasts (heathen) at Ephesus. I Cor.
 2. Fought false brethren anywhere. II C. 11:26/15:32
 3. Said his fighting was successful. I Cor. 9:26.
- B. Any preacher's work is a fight for the Lord-right.
1. I have had to defend God's position time or two.
 - a. Tried to do so with good in view. Eph. 4:15.
 2. Have rebuked some false brethren in loyalty to my ministry. II Tim. 4:2 - I Tim. 5:20.
- C. Prayer is that the church is purer, stronger and more spiritual. Still ready to stand by Lord.
- D. We go to take up the Lord's banner at the Pecan Park congregation in Houston. Need your prayers.

I. "I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE".

- A. Always some loose speculation about a preacher's reason for leaving. Settle that once for all.
- B. We have finished our course. Set up 17 point program in March, 1950. Goal has been reached.
1. Credit is due congregation for such vision.
- C. Realize there is more to be done. Volumn of work is limited in view of ground covered in past.
- D. Paul had accomplished his primary aim. Acts 20:26-
- E. My goal has been reached also. Covered Madison Co.
- F. Summary of my work and results are in order.
1. Residence here 41 months or 3 years 5 months.
 2. Preached 350 gospel lessons and exhortations.
 3. Baptized 37 believing candidates.
 4. Had 18 to return to their first love in repentance.
 5. Preached 65 funeral messages to comfort weary.
 6. Performed 26 marriage ceremonies.
 7. Was asked to make 20 civic speeches in town.
- G. Will never feel that we have done all that could have been done by any means. Just did our best.

STANDARD B & P "NOTEAR"

III. "I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH".

- A. By "the faith" Paul meant he had remained true to the Word of the Lord. Romans 10:17.
- B. Paul did admit he had been too soft and easy at times. II Cor. 12:13. I made same mistake.
- C. He conceded was hard at times too. II Cor. 7:8.
- D. He said his intentions were good. I Cor. 2:1-2.
- E. Peter said He did not always fit his messages to his audience. II Pet. 3:16.
 - 1. Wish I could say I fit half of mine to audience.
- F. Nevertheless, Paul never compromised the truth nor denied the faith in life or doctrine.
- G. Have tried to follow that pattern. Preaching impartially to the uplifting of us all.

IV. "HENCEFORTH THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME..."

- A. Paul was only hours away from the Roman sword and his coveted crown of righteousness.
- B. His life was closing full of assurance of reward.
- C. We are but hours away from our departure. Only we look toward our work where he looked back.
- D. We asked no reward for our labors here but another opportunity to serve the Lord's cause where fit.
- E. We look beyond this present life to the day when all of those who love His appearing shall be together again—to part no more.

INV: My heart's desire is to see every unsaved soul in this audience in the tender care of the Lord.

B-R-C-B

My prayer is that no erring member will leave this service without repenting of past sin and neglect and will let us pray together.

THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE IS AT HAND (2)

II Tim. 4:6-8

Times of adjustment on earth a part of life.

II Tim. believed to be Paul's last message. Text.
 Contained the final analysis of his work on earth.
 Left the world a great Christian example. I Cor. 11:1.
 Left a pattern we must follow to the end of life.

I. THE CHRISTIAN HAS A WAREFARE TO FIGHT.

- A. Paul dedicated himself to the "A-gon-i-zo" or fight meaning "to contest publically." II Tim. 4:1-2.
- B. Paul fought to the finish. Acts 20:26-27. 23:1.
- C. Paul got results. Acts 17:6. Fought a good fight.
- D. Our public contest goes on. Gal. 6:10. Be strong!

II. THE CHRISTIAN HAS A COURSE TO FINISH.

- A. Paul dedicated himself to the "dro-mos" or course, meaning "running a course in a race."
- B. Heaven and earth watches as Christians run. Heb. 12:1
- C. Paul hurdled every obstacle imaginable. II C. 11:24
- D. Paul learned to "glory" in tribulations, or appropriate them to develop patience. Rom. 5:3.
 Paul FINISHED his course.

III. THE CHRISTIAN HAS A FAITH TO KEEP.

- A. Paul dedicated himself to the "pistis" or faith meaning: "a conviction, full of joy, trust, that Jesus is the Messiah--the divinely appointed author of salvation in the kingdom of God, cojoined with obedience to Christ."
 (Source of definition: Thayer. 1886 Ed. P. 511)
- B. Paul was faithful even when he despaired of life on some occasions. II Cor. 1:8.
 - 1. Our troubles are minor to his. Thank God, press on.
- C. Paul kept the faith, even beyond the sword; we are yet to be proved. I Cor. 15:58.
- D. Paul's secret was trust in Christ? Phil. 4:13. YOU?

At departure time Paul was ready for death, the grave, and the judgment. Only the Christian is.
 Are you ready, should God send for you now?
 If not, B-R-C-B.

If you are a Christian out-of-duty are you ready to depart this life in your present condition?
 If not, R-P.

STANDARD

STANDARD B & P "NOTES"

IN: